

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 were originally filed in the present application, of which claims 12, 20, and 30 have been cancelled. In response to the restriction requirement of the Office Action mailed April 21, 2005, claims 11-39 were withdrawn as being directed to an unelected species and Applicants elected Group I, corresponding to original claims 1-10. Claim 1 has been deemed to be generic.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chen, et al. (US Patent No. 6,025,273 hereinafter referred to as "Chen"). With respect to the claims as herein amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner directs attention to the "second anisotropic plasma etch" of Chen to read on the claimed "halogen containing plasma step." (Pg. 3 of the OA, citing col. 4, line 64 – col. 5, line 5 of the Chen patent). In contrast, claim 1 now reads, in part:

- (b) cleaning a residue from said opening by performing a halogen containing plasma step; and
- (c) etching said cleaned opening in said substrate.

It is further noted that the Examiner cites to the same "second anisotropic plasma etch" at col. 5, lines 1-20 to cover element (c) (as originally presented). Applicant respectfully submits that the claim, as herein submitted, is patentable over Chen.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Dependent claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen, et al. (US Patent No. 6,025,273 hereinafter referred to as "Chen") taken with Yeh, et al. (US Patent No. 6,207,565 hereinafter referred to as "Yeh") and Webb, et al (US Patent No. 5,228,950 hereinafter referred to as "Webb").


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Claim 7 includes parameters, including a "period of less than about 60 seconds" which further emphasize the "cleaning" operation of claim 1.

Conclusion

An early formal notice of allowance of claims 1-11, 13-19, 21-29, and 31-39 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p> <p>on: <u>October 17, 2005</u></p> <p><u>Kymina O'Dell</u></p> <p>Signature of person mailing paper and fee</p>
